

# Lecture 21

## Intro to Attacking Non-Linear Equations

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## Introduction to Roots

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## Introduction to Zeros

# Lecture 21

Introduction to Dr C  
not-so-sneakily getting  
you to program...

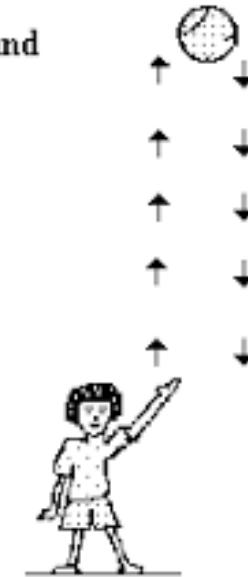
## Episode 1

# Repressed False Memory Therapy from Middle School

# Conversation Starter

- Classic Physics...
  - Toss a brick!
    - Initial Velocity,  $v_0$
    - Initial Height,  $z_0$
    - When do you need to get out of the way?
  - The governing equation

Throw up and fall down



$$z(t, g, z_0, v_0) := z_0 + v_0 \cdot t - \frac{1}{2} g \cdot t^2$$

# How to solve?

- If you take stock in this equation and make note of the knowns and unknowns & plug things in...

$$z(t, g, z_o, v_o) := z_o + v_o \cdot t - \frac{1}{2} g \cdot t^2$$

From Mr McKeon's Physics Class

Accelleration due to gravity...

$$v_o := 50 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}}$$

$g = 32.174 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}^2}$

Initial upward velocity...

$$z_o := 4 \text{ ft}$$

Initial height of rock...

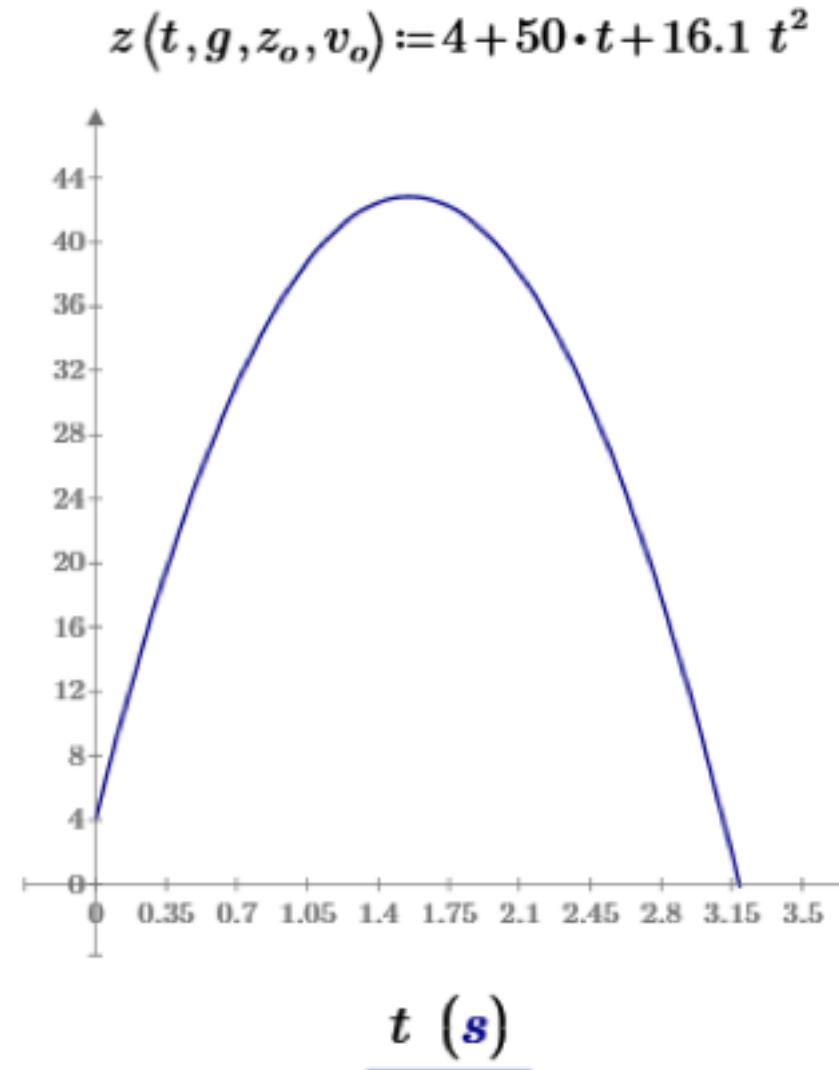
$$z_{\text{head}} := 5 \text{ ft} + 8 \text{ in} = 5.667 \text{ ft}$$

Your prof's height [without heels]  
This is the answer on the LHS  
you're tryng to match

$$5.67 = 4 + 50 \cdot t + 16.1 t^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{You get this!}$$

# A good starting point...

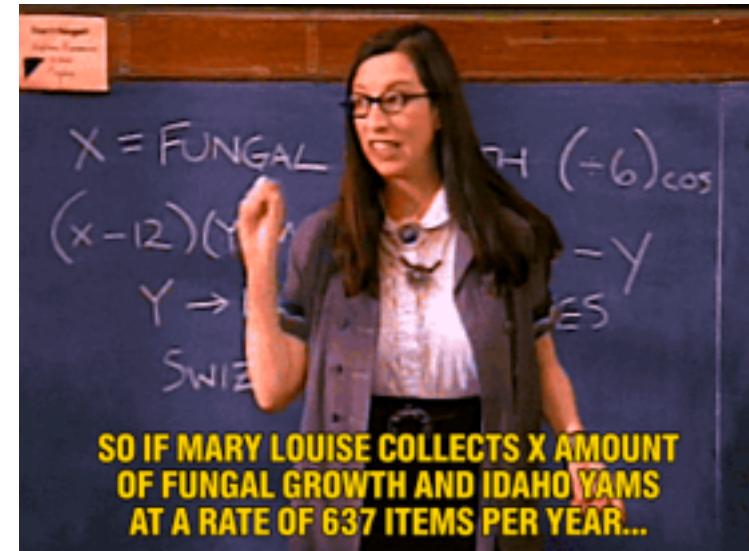
- Always a good place to start is to create a plot of your equation...
- This gives you a perspective of your problem that will help you later on.
- In this case we have a basic curve.



# Moving forward...

$$5.67 = 4 + 50 \cdot t + 16.1 t^2$$

- Now put our specific problem with all of our players in the equation (including the LHS).
- So as we saw before this breaks down to a simple “solve for  $x$   $t$ ” kind of problem from Mrs. Mercer’s class...
- This is also the form of a “root” equation that we call “Algebraic” in nature.
- In these cases the “unknown” has positive integers as the powers and no other distinct or intimidating feature. It’s a straight polynomial.



(Still not really Mrs. Mercer)

# The “One Size Fits All” attack strategy for Root Problems...

- Now for the next step. And it's the most important step in assaulting these problems.
- We move EVERYTHING to one side of the equal sign... leaving one side with just a zero.

$$f(t) := 0 = 4 + 50 \cdot t + 16.1 t^2 - 5.67$$

- (This is why some people call these problems “zero” problems)
- Technically this gives us a new equation that we typically model as  $f(x)$

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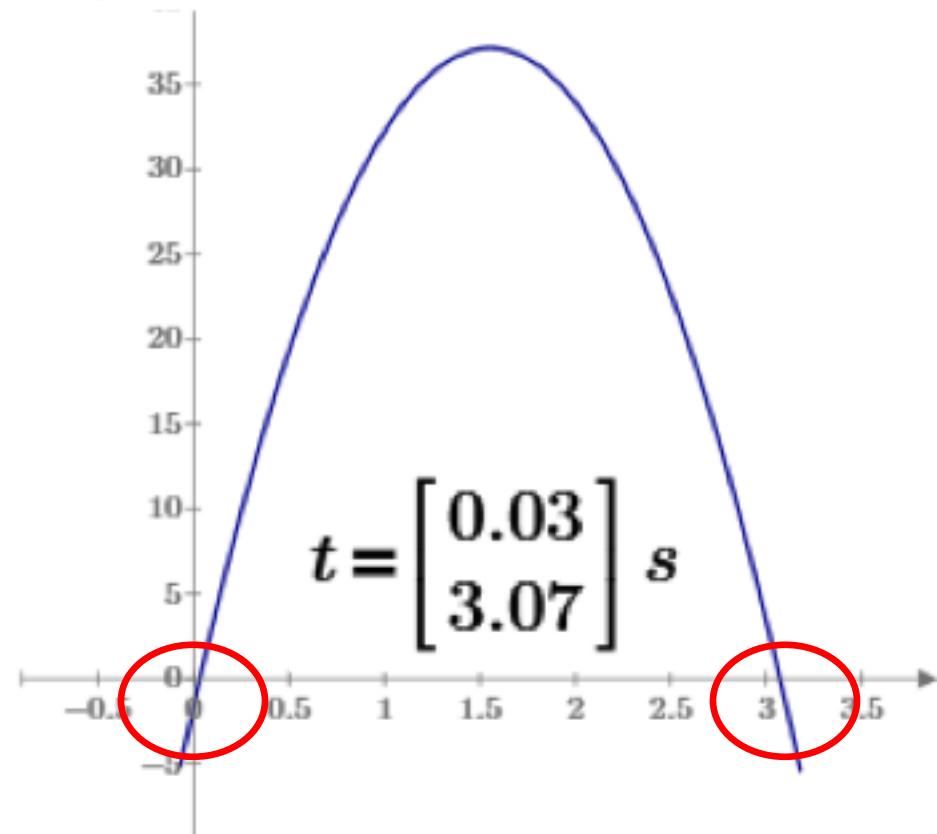
$$f(t) := -16.1 t^2 + 50 \cdot t - 1.67$$

- (This is why some people call these problems “zero” problems)
- Technically this gives us a new equation that we typically model as  $f(x)$

# The “One Size Fits All” attack strategy for Root Problems...

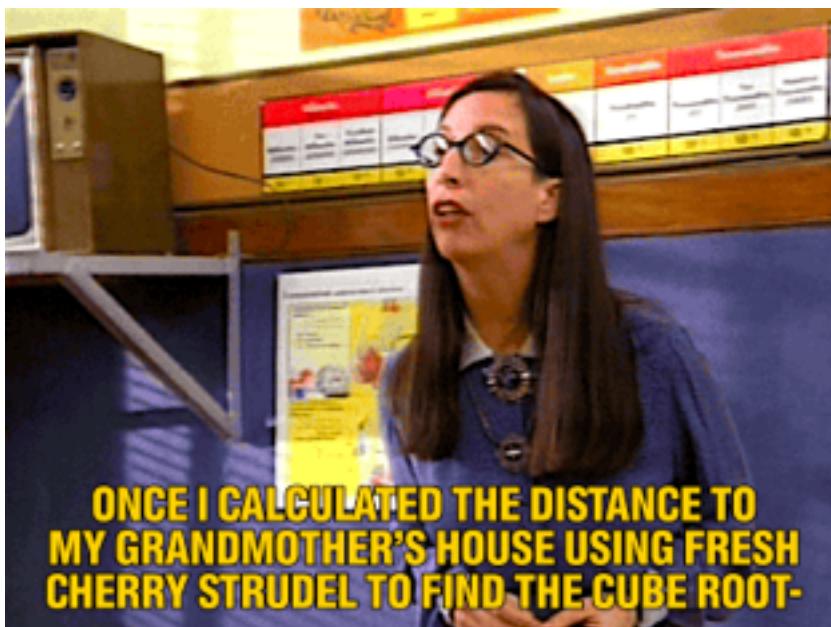
- Now let's go back to our first step (graphing it out...)
- When we graph out our  $f(t)$  function our answer will be where our line crosses the x axis... i.e., where  $f(t) = 0$

$$f(t) := -16.1 t^2 + 50 \cdot t - 1.67$$



# For quadratics...

- ... Getting the roots is classic old school.



(Too subversively cool to be  
Mrs. Mercer...)

$$f(t) := -16.1 \ t^2 + 50 \cdot t - 1.67$$

**a**                    **b**                    **c**

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

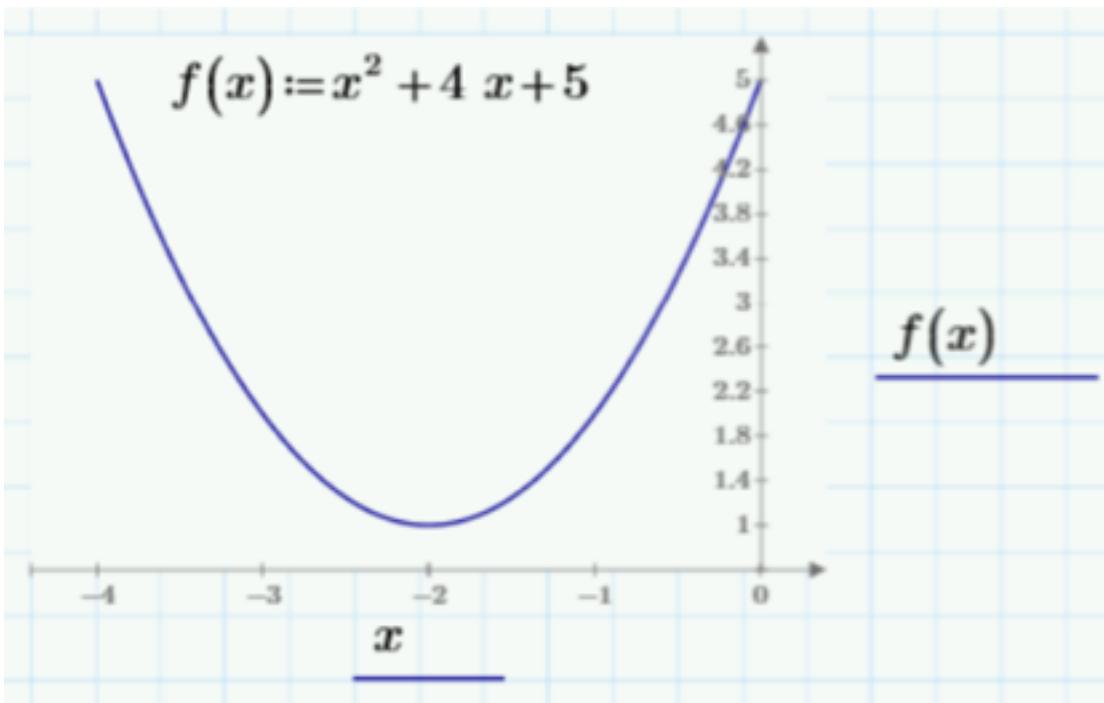
$$t := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4 \cdot a \cdot c}}{2 \cdot a} \\ \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4 \cdot a \cdot c}}{2 \cdot a} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.034 \\ 3.072 \end{bmatrix}$$

What goes up

May cause a concussion

- In principle getting higher order polynomial roots is doable...

# Things to watch out for...

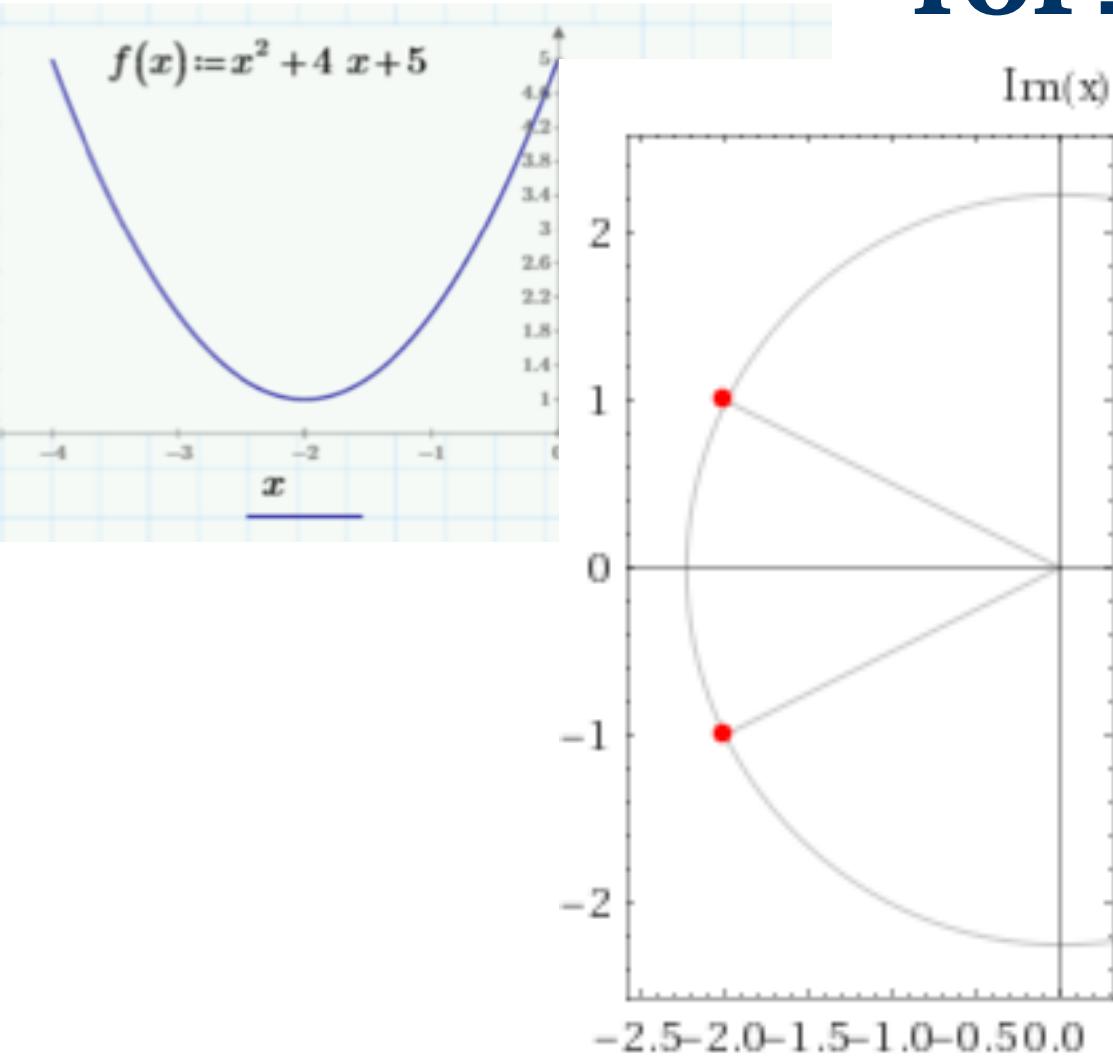


$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

- Imaginary Roots do not represent a Real ( $\mathbb{R}$ ) solution in the  $x-f(x)$  plane...

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} -2+1i \\ -2-1i \end{bmatrix}$$

# Things to watch out for...



- The solutions are there, they are crossing the  $f(x)=0$  in the plane and are in  $x$ 's Imaginary (II) space

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} -2 + 1i \\ -2 - 1i \end{bmatrix}$$

# Solving Higher Order Polynomials

- There are other ways to attack polynomials (especially cubic and higher-order polynomials)...
- In Mathcad there is the polyroot() function, the Symbolic Arrow and the “Solve Block”



(...Unless Mrs Mercer secretly jammed with the Feelies, REM and Mathew Sweet)

# The Symbolic Arrow

$$f(t) := -16.1 t^2 + 50 \cdot t - 1.67$$

$$f(t) \xrightarrow{\text{solve}, t} \begin{bmatrix} 0.033767150996630210323 \\ 3.071822911151710319 \end{bmatrix}$$

+

DO NOT USE WITH UNITS!!!

$$f(t) := (4 \text{ ft}) + \left( 40 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}} \right) \cdot t - \frac{1}{2} \left( 32.174 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}^2} \right) \cdot t^2 - (5.667 \text{ ft})$$

$$f(t) \xrightarrow{\text{solve}, t} \begin{bmatrix} 0.062161994156772549263 \cdot \text{s}^2 \cdot \left( \frac{20.0 \cdot \text{ft}}{\text{s}} + \frac{\sqrt{257.392 \cdot \text{s}^2 \cdot \text{ft} \cdot \text{ft} - 364.660116 \cdot \text{s}^2 \cdot \text{ft}^2 + 1600.0 \cdot \text{ft}^2 \cdot \text{s}^2}}{2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{ft}} \right) \\ 0.062161994156772549263 \cdot \text{s}^2 \cdot \left( \frac{20.0 \cdot \text{ft}}{\text{s}} - \frac{\sqrt{257.392 \cdot \text{s}^2 \cdot \text{ft} \cdot \text{ft} - 364.660116 \cdot \text{s}^2 \cdot \text{ft}^2 + 1600.0 \cdot \text{ft}^2 \cdot \text{s}^2}}{2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{ft}} \right) \end{bmatrix}$$

# The Polyroot function...

DO NOT USE WITH UNITS!!!

$$f(t) := -16.1 t^2 + 50 \cdot t - 1.67$$

$$f(t) \xrightarrow{\text{coeffs}} \begin{bmatrix} -1.67 \\ 50 \\ -16.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

0<sup>th</sup>-order coefficient  
1<sup>th</sup>-order coefficient  
2<sup>nd</sup>-order coefficient  
... and so on...

$$\text{polyroots} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1.67 \\ 50 \\ -16.1 \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.034 \\ 3.072 \end{bmatrix}$$

# The Solve Block

- The Swiss Army Knife of Mathcad
- We'll do this officially later in this section of the class.

Guess Values

$$t := 3.072 \text{ s}$$
$$z_{head} := 5.667 \text{ ft} \quad v_o := 50 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}}$$
$$z_o := 4 \text{ ft}$$

Constraints

$$z_{head} = z_o + v_o \cdot t - \frac{1}{2} g \cdot t^2$$

Solver

$$\text{find}(t) = 3.074 \text{ s}$$

# Excel...

- Solver and What If...
- More later in this unit.

# When Algebra-Fu isn't enough...

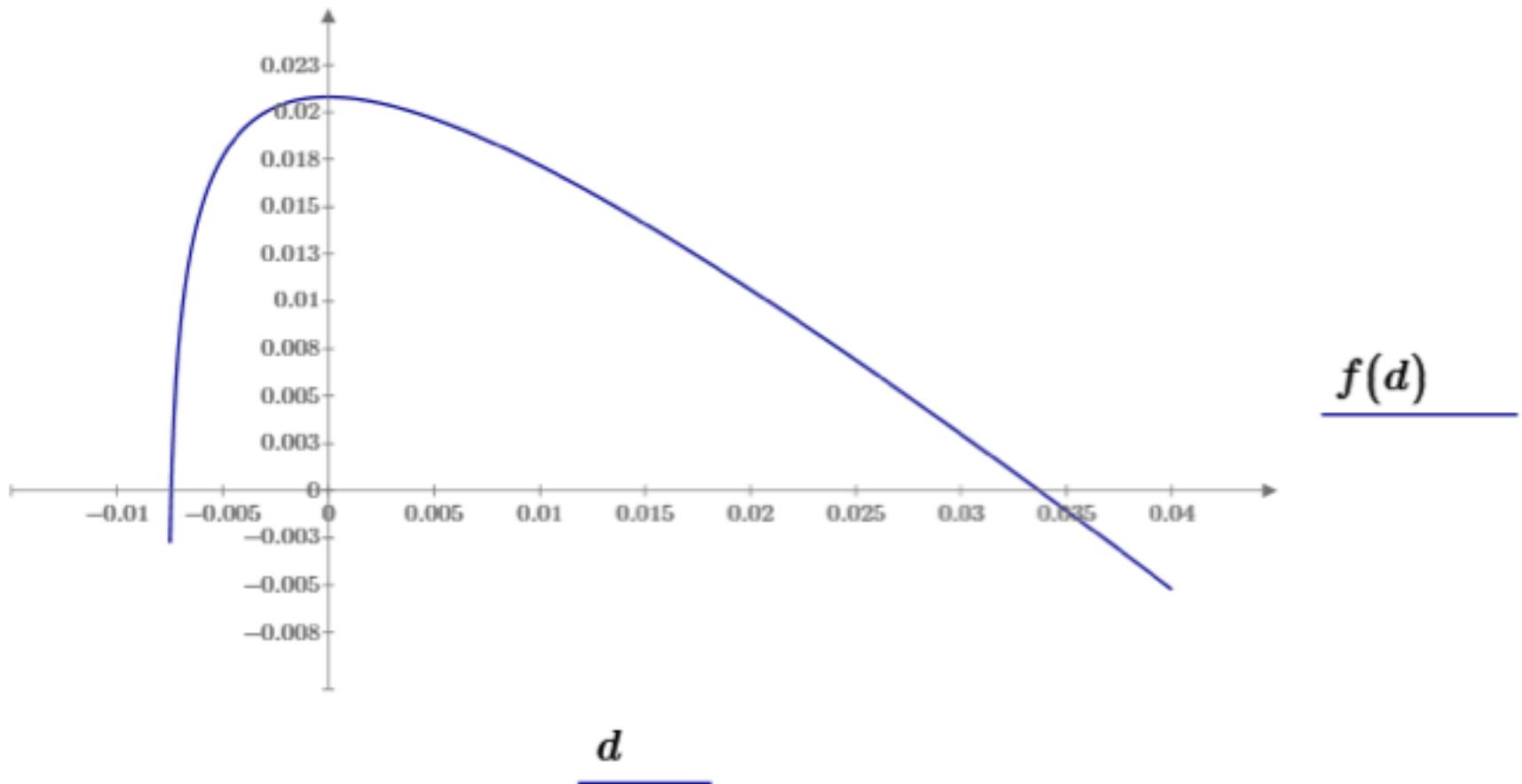
- There are also non-algebraic equations which are not solvable by polynomial approaches...
  - As is shown here where we are solving for the *depth* of rain infiltration into the soil at time *t*...
- This is a “*Transcendental*” equation.

$$\text{depth} := K_s \cdot t + \psi_s \cdot \Delta\Theta \cdot \ln \left( 1 + \frac{\text{depth}}{\psi_s \cdot \Delta\Theta} \right)$$

# Our Cliffhanger?

- How to solve?

$$f(d) := K_s \cdot t + \psi_s \cdot \Delta\Theta \cdot \ln\left(1 + \frac{d}{\psi_s \cdot \Delta\Theta}\right) - d$$



# Next Time

S.W.A.G.ing Transcendental  
Equations using  
Approximation Methods